

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00

L-03 IO-13 /060 W

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R 291517Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY BISSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0132

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

AMEMBASSY DAKAR BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L BISSAU 0173

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, CV, EAIR, ICAO

SUBJ: PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SAL OCEANIC FIR

REF: STATE 265479

1. GOCV CLEARLY ATTACHES HIGHEST IMPORTANCE TO ESTABLISHMENT OF SAL OCEANIC FIR AS THIS WAS THE ONLY SPECIFIC ISSUE RAISED BY PRESIDENT PEREIRA DURING MY MEETING WITH HIM FOLLOWING PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS (SEE SEPTTEL). EMBASSY IS IN NO POSITION TO COMMENT ON THE TECHNICAL AIR SAFETY ARGUMENTS FOR THE PROPOSAL. THESE ARGUMENTS WILL BE MADE BY CAPE VERDE AND THE PRINCIPAL USERS OF THE FLIGHT ZONE CONCERNED (PORTUGAL, SPAIN, BRAZIL AND OTHERS) WHO ALREADY SUPPORT THE CAPE VERDEAN CASE. ACCORDING TO GOCV, THE PANAM MANAGER FOR AERONAUTICAL SERVICES AND COMMUNICATIONS AT JFK (CASTAN: TEL: 212-632-6036) HAS VISITED SAL AIRPORT AND RECOMMENDED ESTABLISHMENT OF SAL FIR FOR SAFETY REASONS. OUR COMMENTS BELOW ARE INTENDED ONLY TO PROVIDE THE DEPARTMENT WITH BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSAL OF A NON-TECHNICAL NATURE. THE COMMENTS WERE DEVELOPED THROUGH
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MEETINGS WITH THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

(VIEIRA) AND THE DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION (ESTRELA) AS WELL AS A VISIT OF SAL AIRPORT FACILITIES.

2. SAL AIRPORT RECEIVES NINETY PERCENT OF ITS INCOME FROM THE TWELVE FLIGHTS A WEEK SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS RUNS THROUGH AIRPORT TO NEW YORK, AMSTERDAM, FRANKFURT AND LONDON. REMAINING TEN PERCENT OF REVENUE IS ACCOUNTED FOR BY TAP, AS WELL AS VARIG AND SAFAIR CHARTERS. NEVERTHELESS, AIRPORT STILL OPERATES AT A YEARLY DEFICIT RUNNING CURRENTLY AT ABOUT EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS.

3. GOCV BELIEVES THAT THE STRONG AIR SAFETY ARGUMENTS FOR THE PROPOSAL SAL FIR ARE OF PRIMARY CONSIDERATION. HOWEVER, THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF BETWEEN 1 TO 1.5 MILLION DOLLARS THAT WOULD ACCRUE TO CAPE VERDE FROM FEES PAID BY USERS OF THE ZONE IS VITALLY IMPORTANT TO GOCV. NOT ONLY ARE THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OBVIOUS BUT THE LESSENERED DEPENDENCE ON INCOME FROM SOUTH AFRICA WOULD BE WELCOMED. GOCV IS CLEARLY AND STRONGLY HOPING FOR US UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT ON THIS ISSUE WHEN DISCUSSED AT THE ANC MEETING OF DECEMBER 6-10 AND ICAO COUNCIL MEETING IN JANUARY.

4. COMMENT: WE HAVE LITTLE BACKGROUND ON USG POSITION RE FRAGMENTATION OF FIR'S. IN VIEW OF INTENSE INTEREST THIS SUBJECT, PLEASE SUPPLY ANY BACKGROUND WE MAY NEED TO EXPLAIN ESTABLISHMENT OF ROBERTS FIR WHICH WE UNDERSTAND WAS ALSO CARVED OUT OF DAKAR FIR. ALTHOUGH MAXIMUM SAFETY OF INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAFFIC SHOULD REMAIN GUIDING PRINCIPLE U.S. APPROACH THIS QUESTION, WISH DEPARTMENT BE AWARE THAT GREAT IMPORTANCE CV HAS APPARENTLY ATTACHED TO U.S. SUPPORT IN THIS MULTILATERAL ISSUE COULD GIVE US CONSIDERABLE LEVERAGE WITH CV ON FUTURE MULTILATERAL ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO US. THAT THEY ARE OPEN TO CHANGE IN THIS RESPECT WAS EVIDENCED BY CV'S POSITION ON NORTH KOREA AT THIS YEAR'S UNGA.

WELLS

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